Direct Berthing Facility at Bedi Port

*290. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bedi Port in Saurashtra is in a position to anchor and handle 25 ships at a time; if so, whether Bedi would be considered for direct berthing facility with central assistance;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the same facility was extended to Porbandar Port; if so, what was the assistance given to that Port; and

(c) whether in view of its immense potentiality, Bedi Port would be developed as a direct berthing port with necessary infra-structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Government of Gujarat which is incharge of the Minor Port of Bedi has intimated that about 12 ships can ideally be handled at a time in the Port. There is no proposal for giving Central Assistance for providing direct berthing facility at Bedi Port.

(b) Central Assistance of Rs. 7.22 crores was released for the development of Porbandar Port upto March, 1977.

(c) There is no such proposal in the VIIth Five Year Plan.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it will be included in the Eighth Plan.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

New Airport at Hubli

*282. SHRI J. P. JAVALI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) by when the new airport at Hubli would be put into operation;

(b) what types of aircraft would be deployed; and

(c) which are the airports with which Hubli would be linked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Hubli airport is likely to be ready very shortly and will be put into operation immediately thereafter.

(b) Hubli airport is, at present, being developed for Turboprop aircraft. Depending upon the availability of traffic, it will be made available for Boeing-737 operation.

(c) Plans for air linking Hubli airport with other airports are being worked out.

Discontinuation of Delhi-Patna Direct Air Service

*284. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the only direct air service between Delhi and Patna has been discontinued;

(b) what is the number of flights between Delhi and Patna cancelled during the last sixty days and those which skipped Ranchi; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to improve the services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Patna has been omitted from IC-487/